

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: PORG, UNGA, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: WEO MEETING MARCH 3: SLATES

REF: USUN 578 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. AT WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP MEETING ON MARCH 3, NORWAY AND THE UK WERE ENDORSED FOR THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; FRANCE SWEDEN, UK AND US FOR THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND GEOFFREY BRUCE (CANADA) FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPS. THE US ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL. DURING DISCUSSION OF GA MAIN COMMITTEE SLATES, THE GROUP AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF NOMINATING CANDIDATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF A COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO THE FIRST (FOR WHICH PASTINEN OF FINLAND IS ALREADY CANDIDATE.) THE THIRD, FIFTH AND SIXTH WERE MENTIONED. USUN WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS A PREFERENCE AMONG THESE COMMITTEES. END SUMMARY.

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1. WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP MET MARCH 3 UNDER CHAIRMAN PASTINEN (FINLAND) TO DISCUSS VARIOUS SLATES QUESTIONS. RESULTS OF THE MEETING FOLLOW.
2. ECOSOC ELECTIONS.
 - (A) COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: NORWAY AND THE UK WERE ENDORSED FOR SEATS NOW HELD BY FINLAND

AND UK.

- (B) COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: NETHERLANDS STATED IT WAS DEFINITELY A CANDIDATE AND GREECE MAINTAINED ITS "INTERESTS".
- (C) COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN: FINLAND HAS BEEN ENDORSED AS NORDIC CANDIDATE. NO CHANGE ON US, UK AND NETHERLANDS CANDIDATURES.
- (D) COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: FRANCE, SWEDEN, UK AND US WERE ENDORSED FOR RE-ELECTION.
- (E) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: AUSTRIA ANNOUNCED ITS FIRM CANDIDACY REMARKING THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN A MEMBER FOR QUITE SOME TIME. TURKEY RECONFIRMED ITS CANDIDACY POINTING OUT THAT IT WILL HOST THE MAY 1979 SESSION.
- (F) COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS: GEOFFREY BRUCE OF CANADA WAS ENDORSED FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. AUSTRIA SAID IT WOULD DEFER CANDIDACY FOR FUTURE DATE, (NOTE: AUSTRALIA AND GREECE, LISTED IN REFTEL AS POTENTIAL CANDIDATES, HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ELECTION IN 1979. THEY ARE NOT CURRENT CANDIDATES.)
- (G) COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL: NORWAY SAID THE NORWEGIAN INCUMBENT (CHRISTIE) HAS NORDIC ENDORSEMENT FOR RE-ELECTION. PER REFTEL THE US INFORMED THE GROUP THAT IT WOULD NOMINATE A CANDIDATE. THE UK AND AUSTRALIA SAID THEY WOULD ALSO NAME CANDIDATES, LATTER NOTING THAT IT IS HOSTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE 1980 CONFERENCE. BELGIUM AND THE FRG EXPRESSED INTEREST. THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT OF THE 15 EXPERT MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED, 7 WILL SERVE FOR 2 YEARS AND 8 FOR 4 YEARS.

- (H) EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF: SWITZERLAND POINTED OUT THERE ARE 4, NOT 3 WEO SEATS TO BE FILLED, THOSE NOW HELD BY ITSELF, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND UK. NO CHANGE IN STATUS OF CANDIDACIES.
- (I) GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNDP: GREECE ANNOUNCED ITS FIRM CANDIDACY, POINTING OUT THAT IS HAS NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. CONTRARY TO REFTEL, PORTUGAL HAS SO FAR ONLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SERVING ON GOVERNING COUNCIL.
- (J) COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS: SWEDEN ANNOUNCED ITS FIRM CANDIDACY.

3. THIRTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- (A) CHAIRMAN NOTED LATIN AMERICAN ENDORSEMENT OF FONMIN INDALECIO LIEVANO AGUIRRE (COLOMBIA) FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT (USUN 670).
- (B) VICE-PRESIDENTS: PORTUGAL WITHDREW ITS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN FAVOR OF SPAIN AND

CANADA MAINTAINED ITS INTEREST.

- (C) MAIN COMMITTEES: CHAIRMAN, SUPPORTED BY AUSTRIA, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS, URGED TACTICAL ADVISABILITY OF EARLY DECISION ON WHICH COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP TO SEEK BESIDES THAT OF FIRST COMMITTEE, WHICH IT WAS AGREED WEOS ARE UNQUESTIONABLY ENTITLED TO THIS YEAR ON BASIS OF ROTATION PRINCIPLE AND FOR WHICH PASTINEN IS CANDIDATE. GROUP AGREED TO TRY TO ARRIVE AT SUCH DECISION AT NEXT MEETING, IN APRIL. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON COMMITTEES 3, 5 AND 6, WITH LATTER TWO FAVORED BY SEVERAL SPEAKERS ON TACTICAL GROUNDS, SINCE

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WEO (FRG) HELD CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIRD COMMITTEE RECENTLY--
IN 1976. SEVERAL CONSIDERED COMMITTEE 5 MORE
IMPORTANT THAN 6 ON SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS, ESPECIALLY
IN LIGHT OF SIGNIFICANT WEO FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
UN, BUT CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS ALSO EXPRESSED IN
SIXTH AND THIRD COMMITTEES. FRG SAID IF GROUP WISHED
TO GO FOR FIFTH COMMITTEE, RUDOLF SCHMIDT, FRG MEMBER
OF ACABQ, WOULD BE OFFERED AS CANDIDATE. CANADA
SUGGESTED DECISION SHOULD BE MADE ON BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL,
NOT JUST COUNTRY CANDIDATES. (COMMENT: SCHMIDT WHO
SERVED AS VICE-CHAIRMAN TO FIFTH COMMITTEE AT 32ND
UNGA, WOULD BE SUBSTANTIVELY BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE
WEO COULD FIELD. SCHMIDT PROBABLY WILL ALSO BE
CANDIDATE AT 33RD UNGA FOR RE-ELECTION RE ACABQ, AND
FIFTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WOULD ASSIST HIS RE-ELECTION.
PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT AGAINST WEO'S SEEKING CHAIRMANSHIP
OF FIFTH COMMITTEE AT 33RD GA IS THAT 34TH GA WILL
CONSIDER BOTH BUDGET AND SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS, AND

STRONG WESTERN CHAIRMAN MIGHT BE DESIRABLE IN FIFTH COMMITTEE AT THAT TIME, ASSUMING WEO'S REALISTICALLY COULD EXPECT TO LAND THIS SPOT--AND WOULD WANT IT ABOVE ALL OTHERS--IN A SESSION WHEN THEY WOULD RECEIVE ONLY ONE COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP. END COMMENT.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRIA ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD CANDIDATE FOR VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP OF SPC, A POST IN WHICH HE URGED WEO GROUP TO TAKE PARTICULAR INTEREST, ESPECIALLY IF IT SHOULD BE DECIDED TO HAVE FIRST COMMITTEE DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS IN FUTURE. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT HAS PREFERENCE ON COMMITTEE IT WOULD LIKE WEO TO CHAIR, ADVISE US ASAP IN ORDER THAT WE CAN MAKE OUR OWN VIEWS KNOWN TO OTHER WEOS BEFORE GROUP'S APRIL MEETING.

4. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ): ITALY ANNOUNCED THAT PROFESSOR ROBERTO AGO HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE. (SPAIN SHOULD HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN REFTEL PARA 3 AS HAVING RESERVED ITS POSITION AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING.)

5. ECOSOC: THE FRG ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS A CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION AND COMMENTED THAT "THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE AN INTEREST IN HAVING IT SERVE AS IN THE PAST". IRELAND, IN RECONFIRMING ITS INTEREST, MADE REFERENCES TO A "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" THAT APPLIED TO ITS CASE. AUSTRIA CONCURRED AND SAID IT WOULD SUPPORT AN IRISH CANDIDACY. SPAIN ANNOUNCED ITS CANDIDACY FOR ONE OF THE TWO-SUB-REGIONAL MEDITERRANEAN SEATS.

6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS: THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THE 32ND GA COMMITTEE THREE CHAIRMAN (MAIR OF JAMAICA) HAD LEFT NEW YORK ON TRANSFER AND THE JAMAICAN MISSION WAS NOT CONCERNING ITSELF WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GA RESOLUTION CALL FOR APPOINT- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT BY COMMITTEE THREE CHAIRMAN.) THE SECRETARIAT IS SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS ON HOW TO HANDLE THE MATTER, HE SAID. SINCE IT WAS NOT URGENT, IT MIGHT BE LEFT TO THE CHAIRMAN AOF THE THIRD COMMITTEE AT THE

NEXT ASSEMBLY. CANADA POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE
HOST COUNTRY FOR THE COMMITTEE MEETING. SWEDEN SAID
IT WAS A FIRM CANDIDATE.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS: (COMPOSITION
OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER AGENDA
ITEM 4 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT
ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS -
OF THE FIRST 1978 REGULAR SESSION OF ECOSOC).
COMMENTING ON THIS "CURIOUS ITEM", THE CHAIRMAN
STATED THAT IN JANUARY 1978 THE ECOSOC COUNCIL HAD
ASKED UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR MARTYNENKO, VC OF THE
COUNCIL, TO WRITE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ASKING
VIEWS ON MEMBERSHIP, SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE
WORKING GROUP. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION CONSENSUS
WAS REACHED FAVORING MEMBERSHIP FOR ANY ECOSOC MEMBER
WHO WAS INTERESTED IN SERVING. THE CHAIRMAN STATED
THAT THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST
TO SECRETARIAT: WEO--FRANCE, FRG, UK, US, AND FINLAND;
EE-ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA; LA--ARGENTINA. LEONARD

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